CECW-PM (1105-2-10b)   1 3 FEB 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division (CELRD-CM-P)

SUBJECT: Great Lakes Navigation System Review

1. Reference: CELRE-PL-P Memorandum dated 1 July 2002, subject: Great Lakes Navigation System, Reconnaissance Report, forwarding the subject report to Headquarters for approval. Headquarters review comments were provided on 31 January 2003 and CELRE revised report was received on 4 February 2003. The district's revised report resolved Headquarters concerns.

2. The reconnaissance report is approved as a basis for further study needed to support a Federal decision on whether to proceed with feasibility phase studies. The report concluded that there is Federal interest in proceeding with further studies of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Seaway Systems Study. However, prior to initiation of the feasibility study, further information is needed. It is recommended that a supplement to the reconnaissance report, for clarification of the without project conditions and determination of the Federal interest, be undertaken. This supplement will provide a baseline without-project conditions for the environment, engineering features and economic conditions, as well as public involvement and coordination. Should the recommendation be to proceed with further studies, this phase must also determine the scope of additional studies, including cost and duration, and develop a Project Management Plan. Since the system is a unique bi-national waterway, coordination with Canada that occurred during the development of the Reconnaissance Report, should continue during the reconnaissance phase as well as any future studies. Options for partnering with Canada in future study efforts should also be investigated.

3. The reconnaissance report revised February 2003 may be distributed to the public.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

RALEIGH H. LEEF
Acting Chief, Planning and Policy Division
Directorate of Civil Works

CF:
CELRE